

Revised

2016 APMBC 15th Meeting of States Parties (15 MSP)
(28 November - 1 December 2016, Santiago, Chile)
Statement on the Victim Assistance by JAPAN
(Draft)

Thank you, Mme. President,

At the outset, I would like to commend Belgium, Colombia, Senegal and Thailand for their coordinating work on this important theme of victim assistance.

Mme. President,

Japan believes that international cooperation and assistance continues to play an important role in promoting victim assistance. As I mentioned yesterday, at the Third Review Conference in Maputo, Japan announced three approaches to mine action, in which we aim to provide comprehensive support to victim assistance, and in this regard, Japan has made continuous efforts in many countries. In Colombia, for example, the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) carried out a project to “Strengthen the Integral Rehabilitation System for Persons with Disabilities, especially Victims of Landmines.” Through this project, Japan assisted to enhance the capability of senior experts who are engaged in rehabilitation. Based on this project, from March 2015 to March 2020, we are carrying out a new victim assistance project in Colombia that focuses on the social inclusion and participation of victims of conflict, including mine victims.

On the other hand, Mme. President,

In order for States Parties concerned to implement the convention's obligations with regard to victim assistance, it is important to steadily put the relevant actions of the Maputo Action Plan into practice. The States Parties concerned were suggested to take necessary steps at home, which could include enhancing inter-departmental coordination, and enactment of relevant laws and budget allocations for their implementation. With various challenges to be addressed, we are of the view that the States Parties concerned are requested to take into account good practices and lessons learned regarding victim assistance, which were shared at the past meetings of States Parties. We hope that those states will extend assistance to mine victims in a most efficient and effective manner.

Mme. President,

According to reports from the ICBL, the total number of mine casualties in 2015 was 6,461, which marked the second highest number over the past 10 years. We recognize that the acceleration of clearance of landmines and UXO and victim assistance are essential elements to realize a world without mines by 2025, which is mentioned in the MAPUTO + 15 Political Declaration. Japan will continue to play active role in order to put an end to the suffering caused by landmine.

Thank you, Mme. President.